

Transcript

February 28, 2012

Good afternoon everybody, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley, I have with me our new appointee to the Gaming Commission, I'll tell you about her in a minute, but I just wanted to note that when the Massachusetts legislature legalized gaming in the Commonwealth they instituted a Gaming Commission that is charged with both establishing this industry in Massachusetts as well as providing the ongoing regulation for that industry once it's up and running. The Commission comprised five members, our office, the Attorney General's Office, was tasked with appointing one commissioner who would have experience with criminal investigation and law enforcement. We also, I think you know, have two more Commission members to be appointed by the Governor and the Treasurer, and me, and the Treasurer also has an appointee, that will be the five members.

Today, I am extremely pleased and proud to announce the Attorney General's appointment to the Gaming Commissioner, to the Gaming Commission, it is former New Jersey State Police Lieutenant Colonel Gayle Cameron. We believe that Lt. Cameron has the right experience, integrity, and the vision to bring to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission exactly what we need to make this work here.

Gayle has a distinguished career of more than 28 years in law enforcement. She was born and raised in Weymouth Massachusetts, but spent more than 28 years in New Jersey at the State Police and she was promoted through the ranks, ultimately to serve as Lt. Col., the second highest leadership rank in the State Police. Significantly, she has extensive experience in participating in and leading investigations into the gaming industry in New Jersey. She's been part of those efforts in New Jersey since the time the state first legalized gaming and we believe that her experience will be critical as we establish this new industry in Massachusetts and her perspective will be critical in making sure that we proceed efficiently and effectively here.

Gayle comes highly recommended from a number of law enforcement professionals across the country who have worked with her and know her. All of them spoke highly of her integrity, her leadership, and the high standards that she adheres to in all aspects of her work. In addressing the bringing of gaming to Massachusetts I have consistently said that if we are going to do it here, if we are going to bring gaming to Massachusetts, then we should do it right. It means setting up a regulatory system that will protect against the kinds of corruption and other ills that can arise, we've seen in other states, and that means giving law enforcement the right tools to combat crimes that we know can be apparent in this industry.

In learning about, in meeting and with talking with Lt. Col. Cameron I've learned that she has the experience, the expertise and the integrity and the vision to be a major part of this effort. We're thrilled that she is willing and able to take on this important task and I just want to briefly describe our own process here. We took our charge from the Massachusetts legislature very seriously, not only by posting the position, but also by reaching out not just in Massachusetts but around the country to make sure that we had a qualified pool of eligible candidates. We formed an advisory committee of three distinguished members of the law enforcement community to help advise us. They included former Superior Court Justice Judith Cowen, former Massachusetts State Police Colonel Mark Delaney and former Public Safety Undersecretary John Grossman.

I appreciate and I want to thank all three of them for their expertise and help in this process in both finding candidates and determining our selection that we announced today. We ultimately received applications from 10 qualified individuals. Everyone was interviewed for that and I want to thank those candidates who took the time to express their willingness and commitment to an extensive process and to helping us in that process in determining who should be our candidate. Ultimately at the end of that process, Gayle was the unanimous selection by everyone involved. So without further delay, I would like to introduce to you Lieutenant Colonel Gayle Cameron.

Lt. Col. Gayle Cameron: Thank you General.

Thank you very much, good afternoon. I would like to first thank the Attorney General with providing me with this opportunity. I embrace the challenge, starting with a clean slate to foster a gaming environment, which is secure and robust. I look forward to bringing my experience and expertise to the Commission. As the General just told you, I was born and raised in Massachusetts, have a large family still here in Massachusetts and while the majority of my professional career has been spent in New Jersey, I'm glad to be coming home, especially in this position in Massachusetts.

The General also mentioned, I have over 28 years experience in law enforcement and spent a significant portion of my career in and around gaming. I started out as a brand new detective in New Jersey working in casino gaming and then held management roles where I oversaw gaming from a higher level. I bring the lessons learned from New Jersey. I think I have the skills necessary to contribute to what should be our primary function with the Commission and that should be to ensure the integrity of gaming in the Commonwealth, while maintaining accountability, transparency and of course, the public's confidence. And I think this can be done by first writing regulations and the oversight of those regulations that are fair to the industry, while again, maintaining the integrity of the process. I really believe that we can achieve this and I am excited to get working with the other commissioners on this endeavor. Thanks.